

**AMENDMENTS****In the Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A low color or colorless polymaleate as determined by a Gardner color number of 8 or less comprising:  
70 to 100 weight percent, based on the total weight of monomer, of maleic acid; and  
0.5 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , based on the moles of monomer, of a polyvalent transition metal ion selected from group consisting of Group IVA, VA, VIA, VIIA, VIIIA, IB, IIB, and combinations thereof;  
wherein said polymaleate is prepared by aqueous solution polymerization, provided that 45 to 55 mole percent of the carboxylic acid groups on the maleic acid are neutralized prior to polymerization.
2. (Original) The polymaleate according to claim 1 wherein 45 to 50 mole percent of the carboxylic acid groups on the maleic acid are neutralized prior to polymerization.
3. (Original) A textile comprising the polymaleate of claim 1.
4. (Original) The polymaleate of claim 3 further comprising a catalyst.
5. (Original) A cleaning composition comprising the polymaleate of claim 1.
6. (Currently amended) The cleaning composition of claim [[4]] 5 wherein the polymaleate is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50 weight %, based on total weight of the composition.
7. (Currently amended) The cleaning composition of claim [[5]] 6 wherein the polymaleate is present in an amount of 0.5 to 20 weight %, based on total weight of the composition.

8. (Currently amended) The cleaning composition of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 5 wherein the cleaning composition is selected from the group consisting of laundry detergents, pre-spotters, dishwashing detergents and hard surface cleaners.
9. (Currently amended) The cleaning composition of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 5 further comprising at least one surfactant.